



CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY

Journal homepage: <https://cajssh.centralasianstudies.org>



Invasion of Omer Pasha Expeditionary Corps in Georgia and its Destruction During the Crimean War (1853-1856)

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Abstract:

The article examines one of the most pressing issues of the Russian foreign policy agenda at the beginning of the XIX century is the invasion of the Turkish expeditionary force in Georgia, commanded by Omer Pasha, analyzes the episodes of its defeat during the Crimean War (1853-1856), and also presents the art of selfless struggle of Russian-Georgian military units against the Turkish invaders and their expulsion from the territory of Georgia, which was of great importance and influenced the entire course of the Crimean War.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 27-May-22

Received in revised form 29-May-22

Accepted 25-Jun-22

Available online 22-Jul-2022

Key word: Invasion, expeditionary corps, Crimean War, Georgia, Russia fight, troops.

In the early of 19-50 years on the agenda of Russian foreign policy actively stood out "eastern question", which has not left the stage of European diplomacy and politics during four centuries. By this time, suppressing revolutions in various European states, the Russian Emperor Nicholas I had gained quite a lot of influence and believed that the time had come for the realization of his intentions towards to Ottoman Empire.

The Crimean War was one of the links in the chain of long and merciless battles between the great powers for the solution of the "eastern question".

The Crimean War represents one of the turning points in the history of international relations and especially in the history of Russian domestic and foreign policy [1, 1950:11]. Nicholas I was in a hurry to take advantage of his position on the continent to regain his lost positions in the East. Georgia founded in this very dangerous node of political confrontation between large states. The most important episode of the fighting of the Crimean War (1853-1856) is the invasion of the expeditionary corps of Omar Pasha in Georgia and its destruction. This article is devoted to the study and demonstration of these fighting operations.

In 1854 year the Turkish war campaign suffered a brutal defeat in Georgia. The 1855 year was fatal for the whole of Western Georgia and especially for Abkhazia and Samegrelo, being prepared was a new war campaign, the purpose of which was to separate finally Georgia from Russia. This campaign was conditioned by the defeat of the brave Russian armies by the allies on the fronts of the Crimean War.

The war campaign of 1855 year had a very special and essentially decisive role on all fronts of the Russian Empire, in particular on the military arena of Georgia and Transcaucasia, had to play the role of the final chord of the Crimean War [2, 1934:20].

In the second half of September 1855, in Sukhumi. Began an intensive gathering of units of the Turkish Expeditionary Corps In October of the same year, the commander of the Turkish expeditionary corps, Omar Pasha, arrived in Sukhumi. Soon after, the 45-thousandth expeditionary army under the personal leadership of Omar Pasha marched to the border of Samegrelo.

On October 25 (November 6) Omar Pasha with his army went to Enguri, by the troops of Samegrelo commanded prince Mukhran-Batoni. He went out with his small army to fight against Omar Pasha.

In 1855 year Nikolai Muravyev was appointed by the viceroy and commander-in-chief of the Caucasian troops. In July of the same year, under the direct leadership of Muravyev, the Russian army besieged the strongest Turkish fortress from of Kars, which was reinforced by British specialists.. The attack on the fortress of Kars began on August 18 (30). Russian troops attacked the fortress of Kars on September 17 (29), but the Russian troops, heroically suppressing the enemy, could not take the fortress Kars, the Russian troops were defeated from of Kars The unprecedented heroic attack of September 17 again brought glory the weapons of Russian soldiers. Even the enemies themselves noted with amazement "brave and heroism of the Russian fighter convoys " [2 ,1934:20] .

As mentioned above, Mukhran Batoni went with his army to fight against of Omer Pasha. The fight took place from of Coca at three o'clock in the afternoon and lasted until sunset. The Russian army fought assiduously, but the enemy defeated the Russian troops because of the large number of troops. Omar Pasha crossed the Inguri and took the road to Zugdidi. In an unequal battle from of Coca heroically fell the commander of the eleventh base battalion - colonel Zvanbaya, colonel Dmitry Shervashidze, captain Koblev and others, who fought against the enemy until the last drop of blood.

Just a few days after the attack on Inguri, General Bagration-Mukhransky suddenly decided to evacuate our troops from the entire territory of Samegrelo. Omar Pasha occupied Samegrelo without a fight. The joy of Omar Pasha and the celebration of the October "victory" of 1855 were too premature and completely groundless. The enemy could not break the strong spirit of the Georgian people, he could not break the population of Samegrelo. The population of Samegrelo immediately created combat detachments invisible to the enemy and launched a powerful guerrilla struggle against the occupiers [3, 1936:130].

After arriving in Zugdidi, Omer Pasha continued to take vigorous measures to destroy the head of Samegrelo, Ekaterina Dadiani, who, along with her children, was sheltered in Gordi prison [2, 1934:28].

Omar Pasha sent three letters to Ekaterina Dadiani. In these letters he announced the "desire of the allies to restore the independence of Samegrelo," politely urging them to return to Zugdidi and begin peaceful cooperation with them, otherwise he threatened Ekaterina Dadiani to put someone else on the throne of Samegrelo instead of her.

Omar Pasha tried to recruit David Dadiani's widow, queen Catherine, by writing to her that the ottomans were fighting for the liberation of Samegrelo from Russian domination. The Turkish commander needed a queen to subdue the population of Samegrelo. But even at this critical moment, the Queen remained firmly committed to the Russian orientation. The population of Samegrelo resisted to the ottomans. The militia of Samegrelo, led by General Gr. Dadiani, waged a guerrilla struggle and did not give rest to the occupiers. The ottomans also brutally attacked the rebellious population, destroying 22 villages and several thousand houses [4, 1999: 57].

Ekaterina Dadiani guessed Omer Pasha's intentions. Her diligent nature turned out to be firm and incomparable. She continued to silent. Omer Pasha stayed in Zugdidi for only a few days. Soon he put his forces in order and continued the offensive. Leaving Zugdidi on November 16, Omar Pasha slowly moved to Zivi and set up camp there.

Omer Pasha soon convinced by his own experience that his assumptions were untenable and doomed to failure. He also realized that Georgians would not easily fall into the trap set by the invaders that they would never turn off the right path - in friendship with the Russian people.

After the defeat suffered by the Russian troops in 1854 on September 27. Russian command decided to storm the fortress of Kars.

General Balkanov, who was appointed as the head of the capture of the Kars fortress, decided to put the Kars fortress in an iron loop and completely cut off communication with the surrounding garrison.

In 1854, on November 14 (26), the garrison of the Kars fortress announced its surrender. The entire garrison once again bowed before the mighty weapons of Russia. When Omer Pasha received a notification about the surrender of the Kars Garrison (which he received on November 25 (December 7), he did not waste time and issued a decree on the complete retreat of the expeditionary forces.

Omer Pasha's decision to leave Samegrelo meant not only the disruption of Turkey's conquest plans, but also the collapse of the false assumptions of the British and French colonialists. With the surrender of Kars in Georgia and Transcaucasia and the general retreat of Omer Pasha's expeditionary forces from Samegrelo, hostilities are coming to an end. The burden of the pursuit of retreating enemy columns and decisive battles with them fell on the shoulders of the local population and the loyal assistant of the regular Russian army - our glorious militia. All Samegrelo and Guria have become an integral arena of struggle. Broke out a fierce battle with the enemy [3, 1936:163].

Despite the great physical and moral shock that the Turkish expeditionary forces suffered as a result of the heroic blows of our regular troops and militia, Omer Pasha, who nevertheless sought to implement his plans for the separation of Georgia from Russia and the destruction of the Russian-Georgian armies, managed to winter in Samegrelo [5,1970:400].

In February 1856 the Turks suddenly set fire to their barracks, destroyed the fortifications they occupied.

The Turks destroyed the Dadiani Palace and the garden and the house of Catherine Dadiani.

The Turks immediately boarded ships and went to Trabzon. Omer Pasha himself left Samegrelo and went to Constantinople, taking with him the contempt and vilification of the Georgian people [5, 1970:409]. This was caused by the insidious and ruthless behavior of him and his fighters. They quite deservedly received the name of a very cruel conqueror and robber.

So shamefully ended the military operations that Omer Pasha conducted in Georgia in 1855-

1856 years, which became the last battle of the allies to conquer Georgia during the Crimean War. Thus, the military actions that took place in 1853-1856 near the borders of Georgia and Transcaucasia had a great importance and influenced on the entire course of the Crimean War.

The Georgian people and their famous militia, which played the role of an auxiliary force of the Russian regular army, overcame the great difficulties of the brutal war and played a very important role in defeating of the enemies.

During the Eastern (Crimean) War, the military arena of Georgia and Transcaucasia had a very significant impact on the overall fate of the war. In the face of the failure suffered by the tsarist armies in the gigantic battles on the Danube and in the Crimea, it can be said that only mighty victories in Transcaucasia served as a guarantee that Russia emerged from the negotiations on the Paris Treaty relatively humiliated and unharmed.

In addition, the above-mentioned military actions played a special role in the history of the Russian Empire and became the beginning of significant socio-economic changes and transformations, this war revealed the backwardness of serfdom Russia and further aggravated the ongoing class struggle within the country [6, 1970.: 216].

In order to get rid of the revolutionary situation, the tsarist government was forced to follow the path of reforms.

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